

# East Fishkill Republican Club

## News

*Government of The People, by The People, for The People*

*September 2009*

*Editor: Tom Dietz*



### From the Club President

Fellow Republicans:

President Lincoln concluded his Gettysburg Address by restating that our Government is "Government of the People, by the People, for the People". He wanted all subsequent generations to know that it is not the government of the people, by the bureaucrats and for the aristocrats". The Current Congress is trying to pass a healthcare bill and excluded them from it. In one of his town hall meetings, President Obama said "this bill is for you and not for me. I have my own private physician".

I ask each of you to ask our Washington representatives to:

1. Identify the basic problems that they are attempting to solve, and their order of priority.
2. Ensure that whatever bill is passed addresses these problems and that its use should be mandatory by every congressman, senator, their staffers, federal workers and the President after he leaves office.
3. Ensure that the bill is written in a language that every 8<sup>th</sup> grade student can understand, which the US military requires from each of its suppliers.

Thank you and God Bless America.

*Helmy El-Sherif*

### Commentary

I have been thinking about an article written by a young man, who is apparently a student in nearby Connecticut School District. I was struck by the title - "America's greatest deficit: Responsibility" and the straight forward observations made by the author.

The central premise of the article was that by allowing government to tell us how to live in order to promote our safety, we have allowed government to erode our freedoms.

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### Calendar of Events

- September 30: Recognition dinner for East Fishkill Town officials who served us with excellence. Those honored are:
  - Don McGrath - past Chairman of the Recreation Commission;
  - Michael Quinn - former Chief of the Emergency Medical Staff;
  - Britta Larka - a former Town Assessor's Office employee
- October 21, the Honorable Marc Molinaro will address a joint meeting of the Club and the Committee at the East Fishkill Library at 7:30 PM
- November 3, Election Day.

### Membership Application

Dues are paid on a calendar year basis. Family dues are \$8.00 and individual dues are \$5.00. If you would like to join, please clip out this notice, fill it and return it with a check payable to:

**East Fishkill Republican Club**  
**PO Box 524**  
**Hopewell Junction, NY 12533**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Paid:           \$   8.00 \_\_\_\_\_\$  
5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

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(Continued from front)

By way of example, the author cited the now infamous McDonald's hot coffee case and how it and similar cases encouraged people to shift responsibility for their actions to others. He also noted how the imposition of the 55 MPH speed limit, which reportedly led to a decrease in traffic fatalities, actually had a very limited impact since most accidents and fatalities occurred on roads not covered by the reduced speed limit.

The other thing that struck me about the article was its "sound bite" nature. The central premise of the article struck a chord in me because I share the frustrations of the author. Yet, I also know that some of the facts in the article are incomplete. As ridiculous as it sounds for someone to receive thousands of dollars for spilling hot coffee on themselves, does it make a difference that McDonald's knowingly and intentionally served coffee that was so hot it could cause third degree burns and did so despite being warned about that on prior occasions?

In an era where everyone is aware of their rights, it is becoming increasingly obvious that many people ignore the responsibilities that come with those rights. I could not agree more with the author that we often face a "Responsibility Deficit" in many aspects of our civic life. Governor Spitzer, the New York State Senate, Wall Street bankers, regulators and so many people who have let the pursuit of their own agendas interfere with or override their responsibility to their constituents, shareholders and the public, as the case may be.

We have had bailouts, a stimulus package and trillion dollar deficits. Opponents wail about the debt that we are saddling on our children and grandchildren but it appears that this is only political position. Neither party appears to be

concerned about the bills when it is in power. It will be someone else's responsibility.

We talk about energy independence and green power. Yet some want to close Indian Point Nuclear Plant but have no reasonable plan to replace the power it produces. Hydro power from Quebec is unavailable because people opposed the placement of the transmissions lines.

You can make your own decisions about the merits of many of these situations. However, we all should acknowledge our responsibility, as citizens and voters, to become as intelligently informed about issues as we can. We cannot shift this responsibility to others or rely on cable news, newspapers, bloggers, government officials, friends and others. We must be responsible for our decisions and choices.

We are responsible for the future of our community, county, state and nation. Exercise your rights but be mindful of and attentive to your responsibilities.

Tom Dietz

### *Will Rogers' Wits and Wisdom*

I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.

If you make any money, the government shoves you in the creek once a year with it in your pockets, and all that don't get wet you can keep.

If you want to be successful, it's just this simple. Know what you are doing. Love

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what you are doing. And believe in what you are doing.

The only difference between death and taxes is that death doesn't get worse every time Congress meets.